



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 12, 2000

Dear ENERGY STAR Partner:

The qualifying criteria for ENERGY STAR® room air conditioners, dishwashers, clothes washers and refrigerators are changing over the coming months, in response to the changing Federal minimum efficiency standards for room air conditioners and refrigerators. This document outlines the new specifications and provides guidance on implementation for all ENERGY STAR partners.

Room Air Conditioners

New Federal minimum standards and new ENERGY STAR criteria for room air conditioners will both go into effect on **October 1, 2000**.

The new ENERGY STAR criteria for room air conditioners will be 10 percent above the new NAECA criteria. The numbers in the following table represent the Energy Efficiency Ratios (EER) that should be used to determine qualification for the ENERGY STAR label. They have been rounded to a single decimal and meet the specification of 10 percent more efficient than the new NAECA standard.

Product Class (Btu/Hr.)	Old NAECA Criteria	Old ENERGY STAR Criteria	October 1, 2000 NAECA Criteria	October 1, 2000 ENERGY STAR Criteria
< 6,000	8.0	9.2	9.7	10.7
6,000 to 7,999	8.5	9.75	9.7	10.7
8,000 to 13,999	9.0	10.35	9.8	10.8
14,000 to 19,999	8.8	10.1	9.7	10.7
20,000	8.2	9.4	8.5	9.4

Dishwashers

Although Federal minimum efficiency standards are not changing for dishwashers, a new ENERGY STAR specification will go into effect on **January 1, 2001**.

	Current Criteria	New Criteria—Effective Jan. 1, 2001
NAECA	Energy Factor .46	Not scheduled to change
ENERGY STAR	Minimum Energy Factor of .52 (or about 13% above the NAECA criteria)	Minimum Energy Factor of .58 (25% above the current NAECA criteria; rounded to next EF)

Clothes Washers

The calculation of the ENERGY STAR criteria for clothes washers will be slightly modified beginning **January 1, 2001**, changing from an energy factor (EF) to a modified energy factor (MEF). MEF is a new equation for Energy Factor that takes into account the amount of dryer energy used to remove the remaining moisture content. The MEF of 1.26 is very similar to the Energy Factor of 2.5, and so only a

few products will be affected. The MEF calculation can be found at www.energystar.org/opie/library/#productspecs.

	Current Criteria	New Criteria—Effective Jan. 1, 2001
NAECA	Minimum Energy Factor 1.18	not changing to a Modified Energy Factor (MEF) until 2004
ENERGY STAR	Minimum Energy Factor 2.5	Minimum MEF* of 1.26

Refrigerators

New Federal minimum efficiency standards for refrigerators go into effect on **July 1, 2001**. The new ENERGY STAR specification, which is 10% above the new minimum efficiency standard, takes effect on **January 1, 2001**.

NAECA Criteria for Refrigerators

To calculate the NAECA criteria, the equations are given in the following table.

Product Class	Current NAECA maximum energy use (kWh/year)	New NAECA maximum energy use (kWh/year) effective July 1, 2001
3. Top Mount Freezer without through-the-door ice	$16.0 \cdot AV + 355$	$9.8 \cdot AV + 276$
4. Side Mount Freezer without through-the-door ice	$11.8 \cdot AV + 501$	$4.91 \cdot AV + 507.5$
5. Bottom Mount Freezer without through-the-door ice	$16.5 \cdot AV + 367$	$4.6 \cdot AV + 459$
6. Top Mount Freezer with through-the-door ice	$17.6 \cdot AV + 391$	$10.2 \cdot AV + 356$
7. Side Mount Freezer with through-the-door ice	$16.3 \cdot AV + 527$	$10.1 \cdot AV + 406$

AV stands for adjusted volume.

Adjusted volume = Fresh Volume + (1.63 x Freezer Volume).

ENERGY STAR Criteria for Refrigerators

	Current Criteria	New Criteria Effective Jan. 1, 2001
ENERGY STAR	20% below the current NAECA maximum energy use.	10% below the 2001 NAECA maximum energy use

To calculate whether or not a refrigerator is ENERGY STAR qualified, first calculate the NAECA maximum kWh/year for the appropriate product class and then find out the ENERGY STAR level by taking 90 percent of that total.

Implementation

Manufacturer Labeling

Manufacturer partners may use the ENERGY STAR label only on models that meet the ENERGY STAR specifications as of the date of manufacture - products must meet the new specifications as of October 1, 2000 for room air conditioners and January 1, 2001 for clothes washers, dishwashers, and refrigerators. This restriction applies to all forms of labeling, including use of the logo on the EnergyGuide label, any permanent logos on the appliances, as well as any static-cling labels, additional forms of point-of-sale materials, and any labeling of products on websites.

Retail Labeling

The Department of Energy recognizes that consumers will still find ENERGY STAR labels on models meeting the old specification in the retail environment for an indefinite period of time. Therefore, during this transition period, retail partners may continue to use existing product labels, for a period of six months (at which point the Department of Energy will review this determination), if the model meets the following conditions:

- the manufacturer of that model has used the ENERGY STAR logo on the EnergyGuide label and
- the EnergyGuide label is prominently displayed, or
- the manufacturer of that model has used a permanent ENERGY STAR logo on the actual product.

Retailers must remove ENERGY STAR labels from any model not meeting the above criteria. To minimize confusion and reduce customer complaints, partners should keep sales associates informed about the phase-in of new qualifying levels, which models meet the new specifications, and how to clearly articulate which models qualify for any utility-sponsored rebates or other incentives.

To assist manufacturers and retailers, the Department of Energy will send a qualified products list to each partner's designated liaison that clearly identifies which models meet the current and revised ENERGY STAR specifications. In addition, retailers and manufacturers will have an opportunity during the October partner forum to learn how participating utilities will handle the change in ENERGY STAR specifications. Following that meeting, the Department of Energy will assist in coordinating discussions between each retailer with the regional partners and field implementation contractors to establish a transition strategy that works for all parties.

Manufacturers and retailers should be aware that utility programs are likely to only rebate and promote products that meet the new specifications. The Department of Energy strongly recommends that manufacturers work closely with retailers to keep sales associates informed during this transition in the appliance market.

Sincerely,



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